AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended): A process for preparing a devitalized soft tissue graft for implantation into a mammalian system, comprising:

extracting a soft tissue sample with an extracting solution comprising a non-denaturing anionic detergent and a first decontaminating agent to produce an extracted tissue comprising cell lysis remnants;

washing at least some cell lysis remnants from said extracted tissue with water ~~passing through a bed of hydrophobic adsorbent resin and anion exchange resin to remove the cell lysis remnants~~ and,

subsequently ~~inducing a pressure mediated flow of~~ placing the extracted, washed tissue into a storage solution comprising a water replacement agent~~, through said washed extracted tissue,~~ to produce said devitalized soft tissue graft; ~~and~~

~~storing said washed extracted tissue in said storage solution;~~

wherein said devitalized soft tissue graft retains at least one of non-viable cells or cellular elements capable of inducing graft repopulation with an appropriate cell type.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended): The process of any one of claims 1 or [[2]] 72, wherein said process does not ~~comprise~~ include a denaturing detergent.

4. (currently amended): The process of any one of claims 1 or [[2]] 72, further comprising, prior to washing, removing said non-denaturing anionic detergent.

5. (currently amended): The process of any one of claims 1 or [[2]] 72, wherein said extracting solution comprises one or more endonucleases.

6. (original): The process of claim 5, wherein said one or more endonucleases comprise one or more broad-spectrum endonucleases capable of degrading both deoxyribonucleic acids and ribonucleic acids.

7. (original): The process of claim 6, wherein said one or more broad-spectrum endonucleases comprise one or more recombinant endonucleases.

8. (canceled)

9. (original): The process of claim 5, wherein said one or more endonucleases are present in said extracting solution at a concentration sufficient to degrade nucleic acids present in said tissue sample.

10. (original): The process of claim 9, wherein said one or more endonucleases are present in said extracting solution at a concentration of from about 20 U/ml tissue to about 400 U/ml tissue.

11. (original): The process of claim 9, wherein said one or more endonucleases are present in said extracting solution at a concentration of about 375 U/ml tissue.

12. (currently amended): The process of any one of claims 1 or [[2]] 72, wherein said extracting solution is a hypotonic buffered solution at an alkaline pH.

13.-15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended): The process of claim [[2]] 1 or 72, wherein said water is USP grade, sterile, endotoxin-free, water.

17.-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended): The process of claim 69, wherein said first and second decontaminating agents are the same or different and each is selected from the group consisting of alcohol, chlorine dioxide, polyethyleneimine, glycerol, methylparaben, antibiotic, antimicrobial agent, and a combination thereof.

20. (currently amended): The process of claim 19, wherein said first and second decontaminating agents [[is]] are non-reactive towards said non-denaturing anionic detergent.

21. (currently amended): The process of any one of claims 1 or [[2]] 72, wherein said water replacement agent is selected from the group consisting of polyol family, monoglycerides,

monoolein, monolinolein, various short and long chain free fatty acids and their corresponding monoacylglycerol esters, glycerol, adonitol, sorbitol, ribitol, galactitol, D-galactose, 1,3 dihydroxypropanol, ethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glucose, sucrose, mannitol, xylitol, meso-erythritol, adipic acid, proline, hydroxyproline and a combination thereof.

22. (canceled):

23. (currently amended): The process of claim 19, wherein said chlorine dioxide or said methylparaben are present at a concentration in the range of from 0.001% to 0.1% (v:v) in the storage solution.

24. (currently amended): The process of claim 69, wherein said first and second decontaminating agents are the same or different and each is selected from the group consisting of ethanol, isopropanol, methanol, glycerol, adonitol, sorbitol, ribitol, galactitol, D-galactose, 1,3 dihydroxypropanol, ethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glucose, sucrose, mannitol, xylitol, meso-erythritol, adipic acid, proline, hydroxyproline, and a combination thereof.

25. (currently amended): The process of claim 24, wherein said decontaminating agent is present at a concentration in the range of from 20% to 90% (v:v) in the storage solution.

26. (currently amended): The process of any one of claims 1 or [[2]] 72, wherein said extracting solution has an alkaline pH.

27. (original): The process of claim 26, wherein said extracting solution further comprises one or more organic or inorganic buffers, wherein an alkaline pH is maintained, and an osmolality of the extracting solution which is hypotonic to the cells in said soft tissue is maintained.

28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented): The process of claim 68, wherein N-lauroyl sarcosinate, deoxycholic acid, taurocholic acid, glycocholic acid, or cholic acid is present in said extracting solution at a concentration of from about 0.16 mM to about 64 mM.

30. (previously presented): The process of claim 68, wherein N-lauroyl sarcosinate, deoxycholic acid, taurocholic acid, glycocholic acid, or cholic acid is present in said extracting solution at a concentration of from about 1.6 mM to about 64 mM.

31. (previously presented): The process of claim 68, wherein N-lauroyl sarcosinate, deoxycholic acid, taurocholic acid, glycocholic acid, or cholic acid is present in said extracting solution at a concentration of from about 16 mM to about 64 mM.

32. (currently amended): The process of any one of claims 1 or [[2]] 72, wherein said step of extracting is carried out for a period of time of from about 6 hours to about 40 hours.

33. (currently amended): The process of any one of claims 1 or [[2]] 72, wherein said step of extracting is carried out for a period of time of about 12 hours to about 24 hours.

34.-38. (canceled)

39. (original): The process of claim 1, wherein said step of extracting is carried out for a time period of from about 6 hours to about 40 hours.

40. (currently amended): The process of claim [[2]] 72, wherein said step of extracting is carried out for a time period of from about 6 hours to about 40 hours.

41. (original): The process of claim 39, wherein said time period is from about 16 to about 24 hours.

42. (original): The process of claim 40, wherein said time period is from about 16 to about 24 hours.

43. (original): The process of claim 1, wherein said step of extracting is carried out at a temperature of from about 4°C to about 42°C.

44. (currently amended): The process of claim [[2]] 72, wherein said step of extracting is carried out at a temperature of from about 4°C to about 42°C.

45. (original): The process of claim 43, wherein said temperature is from about 15°C to about 27°C.

46. (original): The process of claim 44, wherein said temperature is from about 15°C to about 27°C.

47.-67. (canceled).

68. (currently amended) The process of any one of claims 1 or [[2]] 72, wherein the non-denaturing anionic detergent is N-lauroyl sarcosinate, deoxycholic acid, taurocholic acid, glycocholic acid, cholic acid, or a combination thereof.

69. (currently amended) The process of any one of claims 1 [[or 2]], wherein the storage solution further comprises a second decontaminating agent.

70. (currently amended): The process of claim [[34]] 1, wherein said decontaminating agent is selected from the group consisting of alcohol, chlorine dioxide, polyethyleneimine, glycerol, methylparaben, antibiotic, antimicrobial agent, and a combination thereof.

71. (currently amended): The process of claim [[34]] 1, wherein said decontaminating agent is selected from the group consisting of ethanol, isopropanol, methanol, glycerol, adonitol, sorbitol, ribitol, galactitol, D-galactose, 1,3 dihydroxypropanol, ethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, propylene glycol, glucose, sucrose, mannitol, xylitol, meso-erythritol, adipic acid, proline, hydroxyproline, and a combination thereof.

72. (new): A process for preparing a devitalized soft tissue graft for implantation into a mammalian system, comprising:

extracting a soft tissue sample with an extracting solution comprising a non-denaturing anionic detergent to produce an extracted tissue comprising cell lysis remnants,

washing at least some cell lysis remnants from said extracted tissue with water, and

subsequently placing the extracted, washed tissue into a storage solution comprising a water replacement agent and a decontaminating agent to produce said devitalized soft tissue graft,

wherein said devitalized soft tissue graft retains at least one of non-viable cells or cellular elements capable of inducing graft repopulation with an appropriate cell type.

73. (new): The process of claims 19 or 24, wherein the first and second decontaminating agents are different from one another.

74. (new): The process of claims 19 or 24, wherein the first and second decontaminating agents are the same.